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AERIAL SURVEY OF JACK-PINE BUDWORM DEFOLIATION ON THE HURON NATIONAL FOREST

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INTRODUCTION

Jack-pine budworm, Choristoneura pinus pinus Freeman, defoliation has occurred in the Lower Peninsula, Michigan, during most of the last decade. The last major outbreak on the Huron National Forest started in 1963 and persisted until 1966. Since then, defoliation has been reported in scattered areas every year.

METHODS

An aerial survey was flown August 5, 1969, in the Forest Service Aero-commander. Flights were in an east-west direction; in parallel lines 4-6 miles apart; 1000 feet above the ground; at 100 m.p.h.

Defoliation conditions were classed as follows:

None - no visible defoliation
Light - browning barely visible
Moderate - browning obvious, but green foliage predominates

RESULTS

No budworm defoliation was observed from the air. The typical budworm caused browning visible from the air is the result of damage to the older and larger needles. During ground checking, light to moderate defoliation of the current shoots was found on scattered individual trees or small groups of jack-pine throughout the forest.